

National News

Living standards in ten-year decline

Despite the fact that more women are working outside the home, the purchasing power of 40% of American families has declined over the last 10 years, according to a study released by the Economic Policy Institute Nov. 5.

The number of working wives increased from 55.4% in 1979 to 66.1% in 1986, and wives' earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased 12.1% over the same time period. Yet, husbands' adjusted earnings dropped from \$23,204 in 1979 to \$22,240 in 1986. While adjusted income for families increased 7.3%, two out of five families did not keep up with inflation.

The EPI study claimed that young adults who do not finish college are doing "substantially worse" than those of the same age a decade ago; that 1.5 million more unattached young people have "returned to the nest" because of low wages than did so a decade ago; and that U.S. families have been under greater economic pressure over the last decade than at any time in the post-World War II era.

"Without new economic policies, it is clear that families can no longer count on steadily increasing incomes and that the next generations cannot expect to live better than their parents," said Jeff Faux, president of the liberal institute.

NYC gives free needles to drug addicts

Despite enormous opposition from the public and several elected officials, New York City Mayor Ed Koch and Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph started supplying IV drug users with free needles on Nov. 7.

Organized as a "study" to see if free needle distribution will stop the sharing of needles and slow the spread of the AIDS virus among the city's addict population, the program will enroll 400 addicts, 200 of

whom will get free needles and counseling and the other 200 just counseling.

The New York City Council has condemned the project, and on Oct. 27 the Council's Minority Caucus said, "It is beyond all human reason and common sense for the city to hand out needles to drug addicts at a time when our police officers and our citizens have become casualties in the drug war." Harlem Councilman Hilton Clark told the press, "When the first needle is given out by Stephen Joseph, he ought to be indicted for murder. This is an unconscionable, criminal act. It's genocide pure and simple."

City Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward attacked the program because "it sends out the wrong message." The first location for the giveaway clinic was overruled by Koch because it provoked a wave of public outrage because it was located within a block of an elementary school.

Joseph nervously said, "If we get knocked out on this thing now, after all we've gone through, nobody will ever try it in other cities."

Duke returns to Mass. budget disaster

A major fiscal crisis awaits Michael Dukakis back in Massachusetts after the presidential election.

State Rep. Richard Voke, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, called for a full probe into the state's fiscal crisis Nov. 3, amid reports that the state's "master fund" account was overdrawn by almost \$400 million on Sept. 30. A Democrat allied with Dukakis, Voke scheduled an oversight hearing of his committee for Nov. 10 to force Dukakis's underlings to provide answers about the financial debacle. "There is a clear need for the Legislature to obtain an accurate report from the administration regarding the Commonwealth's fiscal well-being," he said.

Massachusetts State Treasurer Crane admitted that the account at the Bank of Boston was overdrawn by at least \$271 million—not \$194 million, as reported by his deputy, Patrick Sullivan. In late September,

one master fund account was \$384 million in the red.

On Nov. 1, it was revealed that the state had been running a \$200 million overdraft at the Bank of Boston to cover the Dukakis deficit. Now, release of the accounts by the Treasury shows that the overdraft reached \$383 million during October. Republican representatives want the state Inspector General and the Banking Commission to investigate irregularities.

"The Dukakis campaign, if it has done nothing else, has provided an opportunity to learn about the peculiarities of the Commonwealth, where borrowing from your own pension fund is prudence, and kited checks are a common understanding," the *Wall Street Journal* wrote Nov. 3.

LaRouche aired two pre-election broadcasts

Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche aired two nationally televised prime time half-hour paid political broadcasts on Oct. 31 and Nov. 5 leading up to the Nov. 8 election.

The Oct. 31 spot, entitled "The Winter of Our Discontent," which aired on NBC, had as its theme that the post-World War II era was coming to an end. The first section of the show dealt with "possibly the deepest depression" in our history. LaRouche warned against those who "are proposing to let the International Monetary Fund increase your taxes, dictate our federal, state, and local budgets, reduce the incomes of our people, and forbid new investments in agriculture and industry." In contrast, he outlined his policy to rebuild farms, industry, and infrastructure, which, with new technologies, "can increase our average incomes by 50% before the end of this century."

The second part of the show analyzed the serious threat the West faces from Moscow and the significance of the recent shake-ups in the Soviet leadership. LaRouche compared the current popular analysis of the Soviets by the State Department and Soviet experts to "little girls playing with dolls."

The third and final section of the show featured LaRouche's proposal to provide the

Soviets with "a safe route of escape" from their economic crisis and food shortages, a proposal to reunify Germany.

The Nov. 5 broadcast aired on the CBS network and was entitled "The Third Trial of Socrates." The show outlined who was behind the attacks against LaRouche, and featured guest appearances by a number of prominent individuals, each of whom highlighted the importance of LaRouche's work in the fields of defense and intelligence, economics, music, and the fight against AIDS.

Voters back nuclear, infrastructure aid

Voters in the Nov. 8 election backed nuclear energy and spending for infrastructure, even in states carried by Michael Dukakis.

Massachusetts voters rejected an effort by anti-nuclear activists to pass a referendum that would have closed the Pilgrim and Yankee Rowe nuclear power plants. Repeated energy brownouts that rolled through the state throughout the year due to electrical power shortages likely spurred the pro-nuclear vote.

The anti-nuclear Dukakis had repeatedly suggested that hydropower be purchased from Canada.

Nebraska voters also rejected an anti-nuclear effort and reaffirmed the state's participation in a five-state group responsible for dealing with nuclear waste disposal. They did so despite the fact that Nebraska is considered a principal site for a waste disposal facility.

New York voters passed a \$3 billion bond measure to improve the state's deteriorating roads and bridges, demonstrating that voters will back spending vital for a healthy economy.

Food prices expected to hit record levels

"The price of meat and poultry will lead overall food prices to record levels next year," according to the current issue of *Nu-*

trition Week newsletter, the circular of the Nutrition Institute.

The newsletter warns that "another drought or near-drought during the next three years could bring actual food shortages. The U.S. then would have to choose between supplying domestic needs to prevent major food price increases or supplying farm exports to maintain the U.S. share of world markets."

The newsletter adds, "1989 seems to be a good time to go on a diet. Consumers should plan to eat less meat and poultry."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has consistently maintained that the drought will have a negligible impact on food prices and supply.

Court rules murder is patient's 'right'

A U.S. District Court in Rhode Island ruled on Oct. 17 that a family who asked to starve to death a 49-year-old highly disabled woman, could do so because the patient, Marcia Gray, had a federal constitutional right to control medical decisions affecting her body.

Thomas Romeo, director of Rhode Island's Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals (MHRH), was sued by the family after refusing to starve Marcia Gray, 49, over two years ago.

Within days of the court decision, both Rhode Island Governor Edward DePrete and Attorney General James O'Neill ordered the agency overseeing the patient in the state-run General Hospital not to appeal the ruling—even though the nurses, doctors, and all were unanimous in their opposition to starve their patient.

Romeo, who was appointed by the governor, held a news conference in early November to call the governor's order to abide by the starvation ruling "tantamount to murder," and said that "unwanted patients should not be killed." Doctors and nurses, "whose whole life center around caring for patients, should not be forced to kill them."

Now, Romeo's job is in jeopardy, and the American Civil Liberties Union has demanded he be fired for refusing to abide by the "law."

Briefly

● **FREDERICK DAVIES**, the astrologer of Princess Margaret and Nancy and Ronald Reagan, has died of AIDS. Casper Baker Gary, his homosexual lover, criticized the Reagans as an "ungrateful lot" because they did not send condolences.

● **PENTAGON FRAUD** indictments have been delayed, and "government investigators say they have been surprised that few suspects have been willing to consider plea agreements with the Justice Department, even after they were confronted with evidence of possible wrongdoing," reported the Nov. 6 *New York Times*. "We're not getting as many nibbles as we expected. From what I hear, there is disappointment," one DoJ official is quoted.

● **GOES-4**, an eight-year-old weather satellite, was retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fleet on Nov. 8. Using infrared and visible light instruments to track weather patterns and storm formations, GOES-4 had warned of the approach of hurricane Iwa, which hit Hawaii in November 1982. The failure to replace GOES-4 leaves NOAA with six satellites, and just one to cover both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the United States.

● **A CALIFORNIA** anti-AIDS referendum requiring testing of persons charged with rape and other sex crimes and with assaults on law enforcement officers was passed by state voters on election day. But Proposition 102, which would have required doctors to report those who tested positive for AIDS, was defeated.

● **A FEDERAL COURT** found that the crew of Korean Airlines Flight 007 engaged in "willful misconduct" in allowing the plane, shot down by the Soviets in September 1983, to be flown into Soviet airspace. The finding lifts the \$75,000 per person cap on airlines' liability.